

POLE SHIFT 2000

The Final Climate Crisis?

Could the uneven build-up of the Antarctic ice-cap trigger a pole shift of the planet, with devastating consequences for life as we know it?

Part 1

© by Richard W. Noone

Reprinted with permission from
The Philosopher's Stone
(Third Quarter, 1989)

Published by
The Stelle Group

127 Sun Street, Stelle, IL 60919, USA
Telephone: (815) 256 2200

This 1989 article by author Richard Noone is still pertinent in the light of recent, often conflicting information about climate change, global warming or cooling, polar ice melting or expanding, the El Niño effect, and so on. His thesis that the Antarctic ice-cap is growing in an unstable manner, enough to trigger a pole shift of catastrophic proportions, deserves serious attention. We are publishing his article in two parts and will conclude the second instalment next issue with a summary of the latest climate change reports, however conflicting, with a view to making some sense of what's really going on with our planet's weather.

— Editor

CRUSTAL SHIFT vs CONTINENTAL DRIFT

Can many unsolved problems in Earth's history be explained by assuming that the outer shell of the Earth has slipped over its interior, changing the positions of the poles relative to the Earth's surface? Yes, says Charles H. Hapgood, author of *Earth's Shifting Crust* (1958), a book highly praised by Albert Einstein and Harvard geology professor Kirtley F. Mather.

During the seven years of research for my book, *5/5/2000: Ice, The Ultimate Disaster*, Professor Hapgood stimulated me to present a synthesis of thought on these matters. His was a great mind, illuminating the darkness where ordinary people dwell. At the time of his death he was helping me, and I am deeply indebted to him for his patience in answering innumerable questions, and, subsequently, for access to his unpublished materials.

In the last 25 years, an enormous amount of new data has reinforced the view that the face of the Earth has changed. However, in most highly publicised statements on this subject, the emphasis has been put on continental drift rather than crustal shift. The concept of continental drift holds that individual continents are simultaneously moving toward or away from each other because of the currents in the Earth's interior.

Professor Hapgood showed that the theory of continental drift (or sea-floor spreading) as now presented to the public gives rise to problems that can only be resolved by assuming that the entire outer shell of the Earth has periodically shifted. In fact, he detailed in his book how such "pole shifts" could actually cause continental drift. By making use of thousands of radiocarbon datings of climatic events of the last 100,000 years, Hapgood demonstrated that the Earth's outer shell may well have slipped over its interior, changing the relative positions of the poles, three times during that period. The last such change would have come at the end of the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago.

To understand what is involved in movement or displacement of the Earth's entire crust, certain facts about our planet must be understood. Firstly, the Earth's crust is very thin. Estimates of its thickness range from a minimum of about 20 miles to a maximum of about 40 [or 10 to 50 miles (Ed.)]. Translated, this is less than one-tenth of one per cent of the Earth's thickness (specifically, 0.0025 to 0.005 per cent of the equatorial diameter of the planet). Secondly, this thin layer is made of comparatively rigid, crystalline rock, but is fractured in many places—such as the San Andreas, Brevard and Motagua faults—and does not have great strength.

Equally significant is the fact that immediately under the crust is a layer thought to be extremely weak because it is, presumably, too hot to crystallise. It is thought, moreover, that pressure at this depth renders rock extremely plastic so that it yields easily to pressure. The rock at this depth is supposed to be highly viscous; that is, it is fluid but very stiff, like warm tar. It is known that a viscous material will yield easily to a comparatively slight pressure over a long period of time, and may not act like a solid when subjected to sudden pressure such as an earthquake wave.

DISPLACING THE EARTH'S CRUST

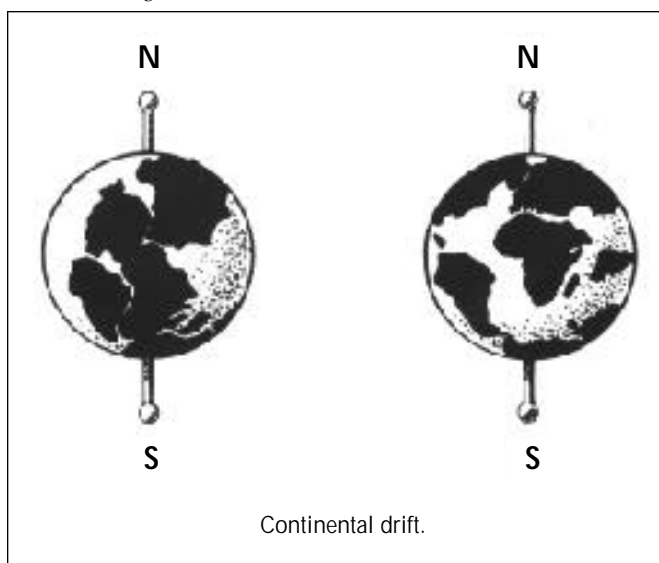
If a gentle push is exerted horizontally on the Earth's crust to shove it in a given direction, and if that push is maintained steadily for a long time, it is known that the crust will be displaced over the plastic and viscous lower layer. In this case, the crust will move as a single unit—the whole crust at the same time. This idea has nothing to do with the much discussed theory of drifting continents, where the continents drift separately in different directions over billions of years.

Hapgood made this point quite clearly:

Let us visualize briefly the consequences of a displacement of the whole crustal shell of the Earth. First, there will be the changes in latitude. Places on the Earth's surface will change their distances from the equator. Some will be shifted nearer the equator and others farther away. Points on the opposite sides of the Earth will move in opposite directions. For example, if New York should be moved 2,000 miles south, the Indian Ocean, diametrically opposite, would have to be shifted 2,000 miles north.

All points on the Earth's surface will not move an equal distance, however. To visualize this, the reader need only take a globe, mounted on its stand, and set it in rotation. He will see that while a point on its equator is moving fast, the points nearest the poles are moving slowly. In a given time, a point near the equator moves much farther than one near the pole. So, in a displacement of the crust, there is a meridian around the Earth that represents the direction of the movement, and points on this circle will be moved the farthest. Two points, 90 degrees away from this line, will represent the 'pivot points' of the movement. All other movements will be displaced proportionally to their distances from this meridian.

Naturally, climatic changes will be more or less proportionate to changes in latitude, and because areas on opposite sides of the globe will be moving in opposite directions, some areas will be getting colder while others get hotter; some will be undergoing radical changes of climate, some mild changes of climate, and some no change at all.



What would be the consequences of a global crustal shift? During a pole shift, as trillions of tons of water and ice from the south pole would rush north toward the equator in a wave of destruction thousands of feet high, and as trillions of tons of water and ice from the north pole would sweep south toward the equator, the forces of nature, loosed from their equilibrium, would rage wildly in search of a new equilibrium. Volcanoes would erupt, tidal waves would hurl themselves across many lands, global hurricanes of incalculable size would roar around the globe, and earthquakes would rip open the Earth's surface. Nuclear power plants in the path of this natural catastrophe would unleash uncontrollable quantities of radiation, creating 'dead zones' of enormous magnitude.

Clearly, only a few survivors—those out in space or at one or two of Hapgood's 'pivot points'—would remain alive to face the resulting climate changes.

Clearly, only a few survivors—those out in space or at one or two of Hapgood's 'pivot points'—would remain alive to face the resulting climate changes.

TRIGGERING A POLE SHIFT

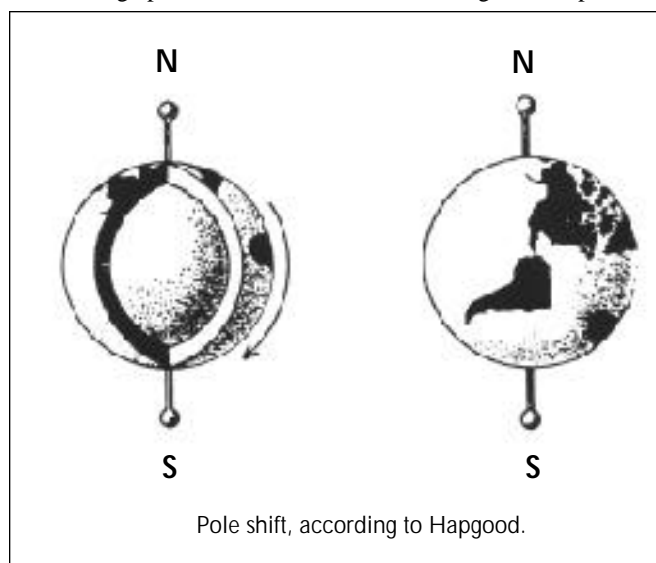
A very simplified explanation of the trigger for a crustal slip can be made using the large amount of evidence Hapgood presented.

The Earth is a round ball that spins in space and 'wobbles' as it rotates. The southern hemisphere is dominated by a continent of ice larger than Europe. This ice sits atop and extends beyond the land it rests on, and is now [1989] over two miles high. The south polar ice mass is not equally distributed

around the pole; indeed, the largest part of the enormous weight of the ice mass is considerably to one side of the polar axis.

As the ice mass grows, it becomes heavier; and as it increases in weight, its massive accumulation aggravates the imbalance in the Earth's wobble. The effect produced is similar to that observed when heavy clothes get lumped together on one side of a rapidly spinning washing machine: the wobble increases.

Year by year, the Earth's ice grows heavier until the tilt of the axis can no longer overcome the centrifugal force of the spinning body. At this critical point, the polar ice masses are thrown with devastating speed toward the Earth's line of greatest spin: the



equator. When such a pole shift took place, most of the world's animal life would be destroyed, including any of man's tenuous attempts at civilisation.

Hapgood demonstrated that our present ice-cap in Antarctica is merely the last of many thousands that have previously existed. Geological records reveal it is the latest of what may possibly be a long line of glistening assassins of Earth's life-forms.

As I explained in *5/5/2000: Ice, The Ultimate Disaster*, the cycle of ice build-up and crustal shifting would continuously reoccur because most of the snow that falls in the polar regions does not melt; the air temperature is too low. Instead, it is stored, changing to glacial ice. As this continues for thousands of years, the ice mass grows until a sudden rotating of our planet takes place. The Earth then shifts on its axis, producing earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tidal waves of almost unimaginable magnitude, as continents and sea areas are rearranged. Then, once again, ice begins to accumulate at the new polar regions.

EINSTEIN ON HAPGOOD'S THEORY

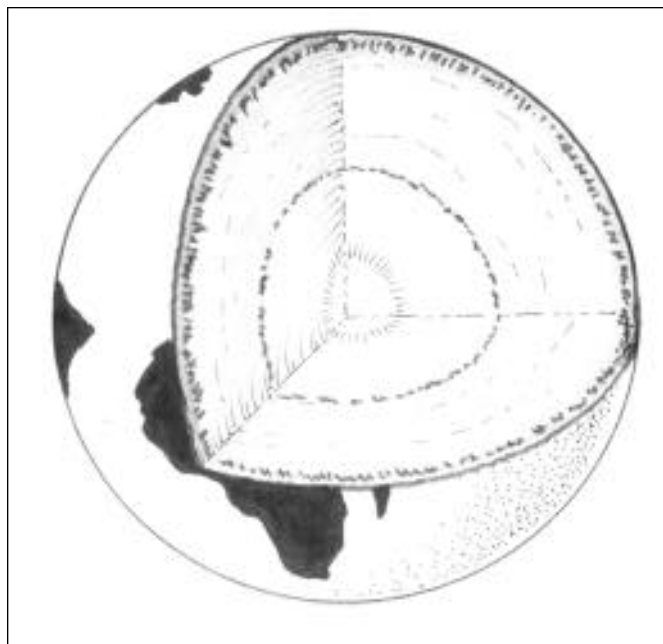
After Hapgood formulated his theory, he solicited the opinion and advice of the great scientist Albert Einstein.

Einstein wrote:

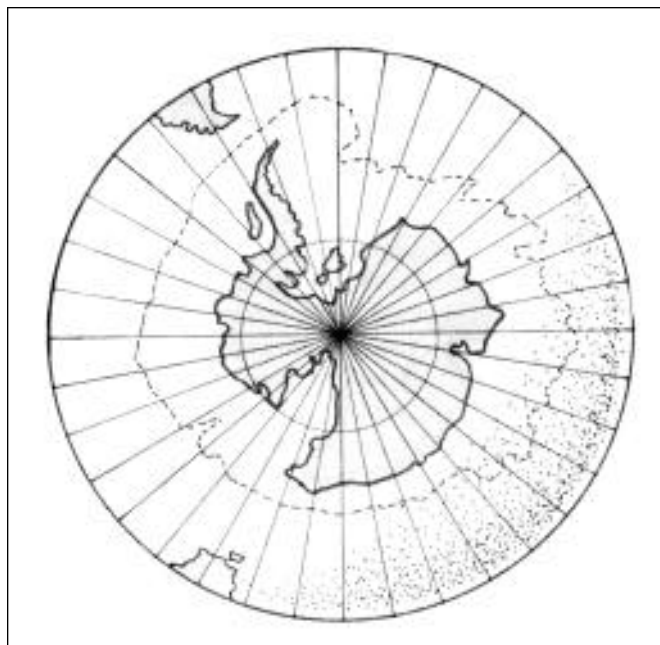
I frequently receive communications from people who wish to consult me concerning their unpublished ideas. It goes without saying that these ideas are very seldom possessed of scientific validity. The very first communications, however, I received from Mr Hapgood electrified me. His idea is original, of great simplicity, and—if it continues to prove itself—of great importance to everything that is related to the history of the Earth's surface.

A great many empirical data indicate that at each point on the Earth's surface that has been carefully studied, many climatic changes have taken place, apparently quite suddenly. This, according to Hapgood, is explicable if the virtually rigid outer crust of the Earth undergoes, from time to time, extensive displacement over the viscous, plastic, possibly fluid inner layers.

Such displacements may take place as the consequence of comparatively slight forces exerted on the crust, derived from the Earth's momentum of rotation, which in turn will tend to alter the



Cross-section of the Earth, showing the thin, brittle crust and the plastic, viscous underlayer.



The south pole and Antarctica, with the extent of the south polar ice-cap shown by the dotted line.

axis of rotation of the Earth's crust.

In a polar region there is continual deposition of ice, which is not symmetrically distributed about the pole. The Earth's rotation acts on these unsymmetrically deposited masses, and produces centrifugal momentum that is transmitted to the rigid crust of the Earth. The constantly increasing centrifugal momentum produced in this way will, when it has reached a certain point, produce a movement of the Earth's crust over the rest of the Earth's body, and this will displace the polar regions toward the equator.

RAPID CLIMATE CHANGE

As Dr Einstein commented, "...at each point on the Earth's surface that has been carefully studied, many climatic changes have taken place, apparently quite suddenly." It is worthwhile to look at some of these points to understand better what an abrupt climatic change involves.

In many places the Alaskan muck is packed with bones and debris—in trainload lots. Bones of mammoth, mastodon, several kinds of bison, horses, wolves, bears and lions tell a story of rich faunal population. The Alaskan muck is like a fine, dark-grey sand. Within this matrix, frozen solid, lie the twisted parts of animals and trees, intermingled with lenses of ice and layers of peat and moss.

It looks as though, in the midst of some cataclysmic catastrophe of 10,000 years ago, the whole Alaskan world of living animals, plants and humans was suddenly frozen in mid-motion—a grim charade.

Throughout Alaska, the gnawing currents of rivers have eaten into many frozen banks of muck to reveal these bones and tusks protruding at all levels. Whole gravel bards in the rivers were formed of the jumbled fragments of animal remains.

The Pleistocene period ended in death. Surely, this could be no ordinary extinction of a vague geological period which fizzled to an uncertain end: termination was catastrophic and all-inclusive. These deaths were of such colossal proportions that they are staggering to contemplate.

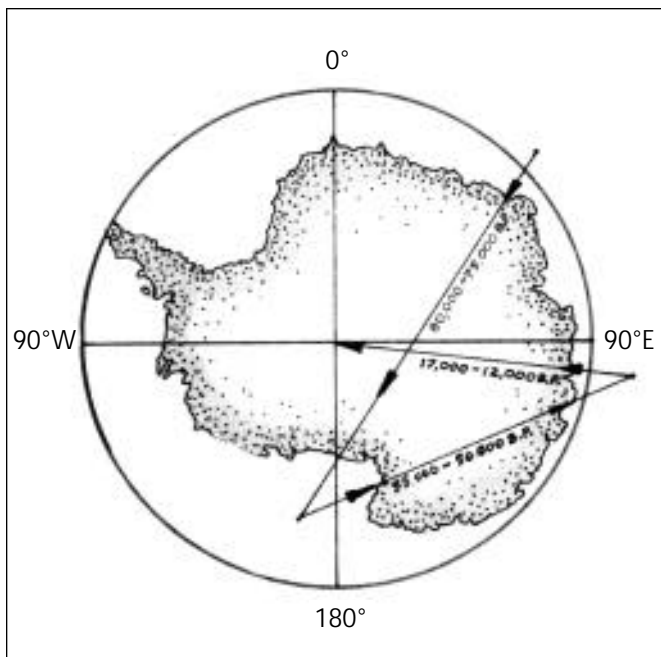
It is thought that during the last shift of the Earth's crust, Alaska, indeed, all of North America and South America were

moving south to their present positions. The *corpus delicti* of the deceased may be discovered almost everywhere. Bones lie bleaching on the sands of Florida and in the gravels of New Jersey. They weather out of the dry terraces of Texas and protrude from the sticky ooze of the Wilshire Boulevard tar pits of Los Angeles. Thousands more are found in Mexico, Central America and South America. Bodies of the victims are everywhere in evidence.

INSTANT DESTRUCTION, QUICK EXTINCTION

One might first think that many of these great animals died natural deaths; that is, that the remains found in Pleistocene strata over the continents represent normal deaths ending the ordinary life-cycle. Where we can study these animals—such as in the great bone pits of Nebraska—in some detail, however, we find literally thousands of remains mixed together, apparently overcome by an awesome power. Millions of humans and animals were killed in their prime. What emerges is a picture of quick extinction as the Earth rolled over.

The evidence of violence is obvious. Huge mammoths and bison alike were torn and twisted and scattered over the landscape like so much straw and string, as though by a cosmic hand in universal rage. In one place we find the foreleg and shoulder of a mammoth, with portions of flesh and toenails and hair still clinging to blackened bones. Close by is the neck and skull of a bison, its head pulled off, with vertebrae clinging together with tendons and ligaments, and chitinous covering of the horns still intact. Beside it is the pitifully crushed hand of a little child. There is no mark of a knife or cutting instrument; fragments were simply torn apart.



The southern hemisphere, showing three former shifts and positions of the south pole, according to Charles Hapgood. (From Hapgood's *Path of the Pole*, 1970.)

LANDLOCKED SEA ANIMALS

In South America we see the upheaval of half a continent in which the deaths of millions more resulted from extensive volcanic eruptions and vast floods. There, in the heart of the Andes, at an average elevation of 12,300 feet, extends the Meseta or Altiplano—the highest lacustrine basin in the world, on the floor of which today is a succession of remarkable lakes. The largest of these, Lake Titicaca, is rimmed with ancient boat docks and supports the only species of sea horse (*Hippocampus*) known to live in a landlocked body of water. *Hippocampus* is typically a marine creature, and, with Allorchests and a few other oceanic forms inhabiting this lake, has survived from a time when the lake may

In South America we see the upheaval of half a continent in which the deaths of millions more resulted from extensive volcanic eruptions and vast floods.

have been in direct contact with the ocean, now 12,300 feet below. (While swimming in Lake Nicaragua, the author was almost killed by sharks which have long ago similarly adapted to fresh water since the lake was cut off from the ocean.)

The extensive volcanic eruptions evident in South and Central America also appear to have occurred in Alaska.

Frank C. Hibben, in his book, *The Lost Americans*, describes the resulting mass graves:

Interspersed in the muck depths and sometimes through the very piles of bones and tusks themselves are layers of volcanic ash. [There were] volcanic eruptions of tremendous proportions [and] atmospheric disturbances of unparalleled violence.

Such eruptions on a great scale would be a corollary of any shift of the Earth's crust.

SNAP-FROZEN IN SIBERIA

It is logical that as one side of the crust moved south, the other side of the globe would be moving north. Is there evidence that what are cold lands today were once warm, and that warm lands today were once cold?

As it happens, there is no difficulty in producing evidence to show that the climate of eastern Siberia was once warmer. A study of the reports of well-preserved bodies of mammoths found frozen in Siberia reveals some remarkable facts:

- 1) Astonishing as it may seem, it is not true that the mammoth was adapted to a very cold climate.
- 2) Frozen mammoths increase in numbers the farther north one goes, and they are most numerous in the New Siberian Islands which lie between the Arctic coast of Siberia and the north pole.
- 3) Ivory is easily ruined by exposure to weather, yet, uncounted thousands of pairs of tusks have been preserved in condition good enough for the ivory carving trade.
- 4) The mammoth carcasses are accompanied by many other animal species.
- 5) The bodies of many mammoths and a few other animals have been preserved so perfectly in the frozen ground that they are still edible today.

The French zoologist and dermatologist H. Neville performed a comparative microscopic study of sections of mammoth skin and the skin of an Indian elephant, showing that they were identical in thickness and structure. They were not merely similar, they were exactly the same. Then he showed that the lack of oil glands in the skin of both animals made their hair less resistant to cold

and damp than that of the average mammal. In other words, the mammoth's hair was very poorly adapted to cold.

Now we know that the northern Siberian plains (today, one of the coldest spots on Earth) supported millions of mammoths, along with vast numbers of rhinoceros, antelopes, horses, bison, sabre-toothed cats and other animals.

Perhaps it was the knowledge of these conditions that caused Sir Charles Lyell, the great founder of modern geology, to remark that it would be impossible for herds of mammoth and rhinoceros to subsist throughout the year even in the southern part of Siberia. Many of the mammoths that have been found frozen have had as much as 50 pounds of organic material, largely undigested and remarkably well-preserved, in their teeth and stomachs—their last meals. The vegetation was found to be ripe fruits of sedges, grasses and other plants, suggesting that the mammoths died during the second half of July or beginning of August. Most of the animals were fat, which testifies to an ample food supply, easily obtainable.

A FORMERLY LUSH ECOSYSTEM

While it is clear on one hand that the ground in which the bodies are found has been frozen hard since the carcasses were entombed, the ground must have been soft and unfrozen previously. You cannot thrust solid flesh into hard-frozen earth.

And in the New Siberian Islands farther north, the Arctic explorer Baron Toll found remains of a sabre-toothed tiger and a fruit tree that had been 90 feet tall when it was standing. The tree was well-preserved in the permafrost, and Toll reported that green leaves and ripe fruit still clung to its branches. Yet, at the present time, the only tree vegetation in this area is a willow that grows one inch high. It is obvious that around 10,000 years ago a luxuriant forest grew on these now-inhospitable islands.

The picture we have, then, is of an area on the Earth's surface covered with green vegetation with a multitude of animals feeding on ripe seeds, buttercups and ripe fruit of sedges, grasses and other plants, right in the middle of summer—a beautiful pastoral scene.

The land on which this bucolic picture presented itself could not have been where it is today, however. It must have been further south, in the Earth's temperate zone. During the last pole shift, as North, Central and South America on one side of the globe would have begun moving south, the land that is today Siberia would have begun moving north. And it apparently moved so abruptly that it interrupted animals peacefully grazing. Their world changed from a temperate zone to a frigid location. Millions of animals (including man) were suddenly moved from a mild climate to one of sub-zero temperatures. Any who were not torn completely apart seem to have been slammed to the ground and quick-frozen, to await discovery thousands of years later, like icy sentinels bearing mute testimony of ultimate disaster.

I must reiterate that the shift was apparently a sudden and fast movement of the Earth's crust. Part of the evidence for this revolves around the condition of frozen animal remains. It seems

that the preservation of meat by freezing requires some rather special conditions.

Herbert Harris, in a *Science Digest* article on freezing techniques, wrote:

What [Clarence] Birdseye had proven was that the faster a food can be frozen at 'deep' temperatures of around minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit, the less chance there is of forming the large ice crystals that tear down cellular walls and tissues, leaving gaps through which escape the natural juices, nutriments and flavor... 'Take poultry giblets,' explained a Birdseye engineer. 'They can last eight months at 10 below zero, but "turn" in four weeks above it. Or lobster. It lasts 24 months at 10 below, but less than 20 days at anything above...'

In light of these statements, the description of the frozen mammoth flesh given by F. F. Herz is very illuminating. Quoted by Bassett Digby in his book on the mammoth, Herz said, "...the

flesh is fibrous and marbled with fat. [It] looks as fresh as well-frozen beef." And this is meat known to have been frozen for thousands of years! Some people have reportedly been made ill by eating this preserved meat, but at least occasionally it is perfectly edible. Thus Joseph Barnes, former correspondent of the New York *Herald Tribune*, commented on the delicious flavour of some mammoth meat served to him at an Academy of Sciences dinner in Moscow in the 1930s.

Birdseye proved that to remain in edible condition, meat must be kept very cold—not merely frozen, but at a temperature far below freezing point. His research indicates that these mammoths, one minute gently eating midsummer buttercups, were suddenly frozen and maintained at temperatures far below freezing point for thousands of years.

SCATTERED BONES AND TREES

Millions of additional animals, like those on the other side of the globe, were subjected to the turbulence of crustal shifting. This disturbance of climatic conditions accounts for the fact that few articulated bodies have been found. The remains of countless carcasses are, for the most part, just bones scattered about and piled

in great heaps, along with masses of frozen trees. These, like their American counterparts, also contribute an air of violence and tragedy to the endless reaches of desolate tundra.

Hapgood commented:

It appears to me that the whole mass of evidence relative to the animal and plant remains in the Siberian tundra, interpreted in the light of the evidence from North America, sufficiently confirms the conclusion that there was a northward displacement of Siberia coincident with the southward displacement of North America at the end of the last North American ice age.

To be continued in the next issue of NEXUS...

About the Author:

Richard W. Noone is the author of *5/5/2000: Ice, The Ultimate Disaster*, published in 1986 by Harmony Books, a division of Crown Publishers, New York (revised Three Rivers Press/Crown edition, 1997).

Their world changed from a temperate zone to a frigid location. Millions of animals (including man) were suddenly moved from a mild climate to one of sub-zero temperatures.

I must reiterate that the shift was apparently a sudden and fast movement of the Earth's crust.